



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

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## ***Memorandum***

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: December 1, 2008

FR: Therese Knudsen

RE: Staff Liaison Report

### **Ethics Training Reminder**

As a reminder, certification for completion of ethics training is due by the end of the year. If you haven't yet completed the training, here is the link to the online course:

<http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>. Please see me if you have any further questions or need assistance.

### **San Francisco Doyle Drive Update**

MTC committed \$80 million in bridge toll funds to the San Francisco County Transportation Agency (SFCTA) to replace Doyle Drive, ending months of discussion on how to finance the critical project.

The \$1.045 billion project will improve the seismic, structural and traffic safety of Doyle Drive, which runs through the Presidio of San Francisco, and acts as an approach to the Golden Gate Bridge. After 70 years of operation, the 1.5-mile roadway is nearing the end of its useful life, and needs to be brought up to current design and safety standards. The viaduct has a Federal Sufficiency Rating of 2 out of 100, with 0 being completely deficient. Plans call for transforming the roadway into a landscaped parkway that will blend in with the scenic environment of the Presidio, which is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the National Park Service.

Under a joint funding agreement, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District will contribute \$75 million to the project, with additional funding coming from Sonoma and Marin counties (\$5 million), the federal (\$202 million) and state (\$420 million) governments, as well as the city of San Francisco (\$173 million). Construction is slated to begin in 2010 and be completed by 2014.

### **Express Lane Coming to Sunol Grade**

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 31, 2008 to initiate construction on the first toll lane in the Bay Area. The project will create a southbound Express Lane — a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane that will double as a toll lane — on a 14-mile stretch of Interstate 680 traversing the Sunol Grade. Solo drivers will have the choice of paying a toll electronically to access the lane and bypass traffic. Carpools and vanpools will continue to use the lane for free.

The project is funded in part by Proposition 1B, the \$19.9 billion Transportation Bond approved by voters in 2006. The estimated \$230 million cost includes widening the roadway and providing

auxiliary lanes; installing electronic toll equipment and transportation management equipment; creating safe entrance and exit points for toll-lane users; and the repaving of all southbound lanes over the Sunol Grade from Highway 84 to Highway 237.

The lane is being built in three segments - the first segment is being built between the Mission Boulevard north and south interchanges in Fremont. Segments two and three are expected to be in construction in early 2009. The express lane is scheduled to be operational in 2011. Revenue from the express lane will be used to pay for lane operations, for public transit along the I-680 corridor, and for additional carpool or express lanes.

For more information, visit [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/I-680\\_express.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/I-680_express.htm) or [www.680expresslane.org](http://www.680expresslane.org).

### **Announcement of Federal Liaison Website**

Through Caltrans, Chair Planthold learned of a new website available through the Office of the Federal Liaison - <http://www.dot.ca.gov/fedliaison>. Highlights of items available on the Website include:

- Latest Consensus information available on the authorization of the next surface transportation bill
- Federal Register notices affecting transportation in California and links to the U.S. Docket Management System
- List of SAFETEA-LU earmarks along with information regarding transportation funding procedures
- Links to key congressional committees and California delegation members
- U.S. DOT and AASHTO Websites that have information affecting the authorization
- Congressional hearing notices

The Office plans to keep the website updated on a weekly basis. If you have any recommendations or suggestions for additional links or requests for information postings, please send them to: [Beverly\\_Wilson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Beverly_Wilson@dot.ca.gov).

### **Packet Attachments**

The packet includes the following materials:

- Agenda Item 6 – *Discussion and Action* – Updated matrix, work plan with edits discussed at November meeting
- Agenda Item 7 – *Information and Discussion* – Staff memo, MTC Resolution 3765 Routine Accommodations and Routine Accommodations Checklist
- Agenda Item 8 – *Discussion and Input* – Staff memo
- Agenda Item 9 – *Discussion and Action* – current policy and draft language for consideration from Chair Planthold